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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,266	08/06/2003	Thomas A. Greenacre	413600	8437

7590

08/27/2004

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EXAMINER
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BROWN, VERNAL U

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2635

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/635,266	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GREENACRE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Vernal U Brown	<b>Art Unit</b> 2635	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08/06/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                              | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

### DETAILED ACTION

The application of Thomas A. Greenacre et al. for Control System And Method for Automotive Decorative Lighting filed 08/06/2003 has been examined. Claims 1-16 are pending.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 8, 10-12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown U.S Patent 5195813 in view of Rudenberg U.S Patent 5988838.

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Brown teaches a control system for use with a vehicle having a battery (16) and circuitry delivering battery voltage to plural remote onboard locations at which battery voltage is accessible using the plugs and sockets (45,46,47,51,52,53), the system comprising:  
a portable wireless remote control unit (20) including circuitry for generating and transmitting wireless control signals (col. 3 lines 16-44), and  
a portable wireless receiving unit (30) for receiving wireless control signals and generating output signals (col. 4 lines 25-45),  
the receiving unit including a power input lead (34, 35) adapted to be connected to battery voltage at any of the remote locations on the vehicle and a control output lead (51, 52, 53) for connecting the output signals to an associated apparatus to be controlled (col. 3 lines 56-60). Brown is however silent on teaching the battery in on board the control

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system. Rudenberg in an art related illumination system for a vehicle teaches the illumination control system having a battery (204) separate from the automobile battery so as to avoid draining the vehicle battery.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the control system to have an onboard battery in Brown as evidenced by Rudenberg because Brown suggests the control system receiving its power supply from a battery and Rudenberg teaches an illumination control system having a battery separate from the automobile battery so as to avoid draining the vehicle battery.

Regarding claim 2, Brown teaches encoding the signal by modulating the control signal and a decoder (74) for decoding the control signal (col. 4 lines 38-45).

Regarding claim 3-4, Brown teaches the remote control includes keypad user interface of push buttons (col. 3 lines 29-40).

Regarding claims 8 and 12, Brown teaches the receiving unit includes a connector on the control output lead adapted for connection to the associated apparatus to be controlled (col. 3 lines 56-60).

Regarding claims 11 and 14, Brown teaches providing power input lead (35, 34) to the receiving unit and the lead are connected to the battery of the vehicle (col. 3 lines 51-52) that implies that the leads are splice in the vehicle circuitry.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown U.S. Patent 5195813 in view of Rudenberg U.S. Patent 5988838 and further in view of Park U.S. Patent 5705997.

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Regarding claim 5, Brown in view of Rudenberg teaches a remote transmitter having a user interface (col. 3 lines 29-40) but is silent on teaching the user interface includes visible indicator. Park in an art related remote control device teaches a remote control device having a self-illumination circuit (col. 4 lines 3-16) so as to make it easy to find and operate the remote control in the dark.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a visible indicator in the remote transmitter in Brown in view of Rudenberg as evidenced by Park because Brown in view of Rudenberg suggests a remote transmitter having a user interface and Park teaches a remote control having a self illumination circuit so as to make it easy to find and operate the remote control in the dark.

Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown U.S Patent 5195813 in view of Rudenberg U.S Patent 5988838 and further in view of Ming U.S Patent 6478628.

Regarding claims 6 and 15, Brown in view of Rudenberg teaches connecting the remote control system by plugs and sockets (col. 3 lines 51-60) but is silent on teaching the remote control unit includes a connector plug adapter for connection in a vehicle cigarette lighter socket. One skilled in the art recognizes that the cigarette lighter socket is widely used for powering electrical device as evidenced by Ming (col. 2 lines 51-59).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the includes a connector plug adapter for connection in a vehicle cigarette lighter socket in Brown in view of Rudenberg as evidenced by Ming because Brown in view of Rudenberg suggests connecting the remote control system by plugs and sockets and one skilled in the art

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recognizes that the cigarette lighter socket is widely used for powering electrical device as evidenced by Ming.

Claim 7, 13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown U.S Patent 5195813 in view of Rudenberg U.S Patent 5988838 and further in view of Picklo U.S Patent 6540370.

Regarding claims 7 and 16, Brown in view of Rudenberg teaches a portable remote transmitter for transmitting control signal (col. 3 lines 16-44) but is silent on teaching the remote control unit includes a battery. Picklo in an art related illumination system for a vehicle teaches remote transmitter (62) that includes a battery (figure 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the remote transmitter to have battery for powering the remote transmitter circuitry because Brown in view of Rudenberg suggests a portable remote transmitter for transmitting control signal and a battery is conventionally used for powering remote control device as evidenced by Picklo.

Regarding claim 13, Brown in view of Rudenberg teaches a portable remote transmitter for transmitting wireless control signals (col. 3 lines 16-44) but is silent on teaching transmitting wireless control signal include selecting an operating pattern for the accessory lighting system. Picklo in an art related illumination system for a vehicle teaches the step of transmitting the wireless control signal includes selecting an operating pattern for the lighting system (col. 5 lines 6-12) in order to allow the users to choose their lighting preferences.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the transmitting of the wireless control signal to include selecting an operating pattern for the accessory

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lighting system in Brown in view of Rudenberg as evidenced by Picklo because Brown in view of Rudenberg suggests a portable remote transmitter for transmitting wireless control signals and Picklo teaches the step of transmitting the wireless control signal includes selecting an operating pattern for the lighting system in order to allow the users to choose their lighting preferences.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown U.S. Patent 5195813 in view of Rudenberg U.S. Patent 5988838 and further in view of Picklo U.S. Patent 6540370.

Regarding claim 9, Brown in view of Rudenberg teaches a portable remote transmitter for transmitting control signal (col. 3 lines 16-44) but is silent on teaching the remote control unit includes a programmable control circuit. Alt et al. in an art related remote control system teaches a programmable remote control (col. 7 lines 1-12) in order for the light equipment to be controlled according to the user's preferences.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the remote control unit to include a programmable control circuit in Brown in view of Rudenberg as evidenced by Picklo because Brown in view of Rudenberg suggests a portable remote transmitter for transmitting control signal and Alt et al. teaches a programmable remote control (col. 7 lines 1-12) in order for the light equipment to be controlled according to the user's preferences.

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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vernal U Brown whose telephone number is 703-305-3864. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6:30 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on 703-305-4704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vernal Brown  
August 12, 2004

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